



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 19, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

RE: Site Inspection, Cactus Rat Mine, Atlas Minerals,
M/019/009, Grand County, Utah

On December 19, 1989, I inspected ongoing reclamation at the Cactus Rate site. I met, on site, with Mr. Sal Venticinque, of the BLM, Mr. Joe D. Bierschied, of B & W Construction, and Mr. Carl Dixon, of Atlas Minerals. This site was undergoing its second reclamation, in response to a letter written to Atlas Minerals asking them to do so earlier this year. The site had previously been reclaimed in March of 1988. Apparently, some subsidence problems developed on the site during the last year and very few of the seeded plants succeeded in establishing on the site.

During my inspection of the site, the contractor, B & W Construction was in the process of discing the 14 - 15 acres that was going to be replanted at this site. The acreage will be disced, then broadcast seeded and then springtooth harrowed to scarify the seeds. After the reseeding efforts have taken place, the operator will fix three sites that are subsiding. Today's inspection was to verify that reseeding was taking place and also to discuss any other reclamation concerns remaining at the site. Either the operator will verify, by taking pictures or Mr. Venticinque will verify for me, by doing a later inspection, that the subsidence problem has been mitigated at this site.

In discussing the subsidence problem with Mr. Bierschied, he indicated to me that it may turn into an ongoing problem because of the close proximity of the mine workings to the surface. In places, the mine workings are within three or four feet of the ground surface. This is what miners call a "grass roots mine", or mine where you can actually see grass roots from inside the mine. Also

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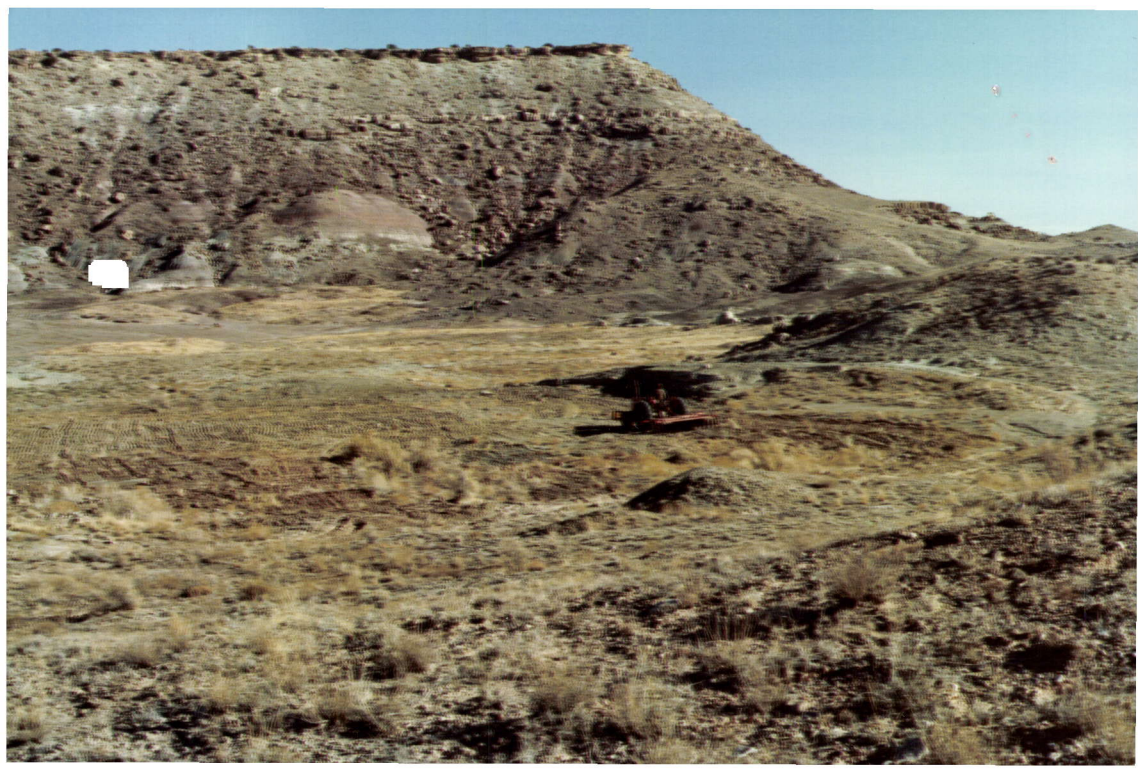
according to Mr. Beirschied, areas that have subsided, that are apparent now, are not those portions of portals or declines that were initially reclaimed by the operator. These are portions of the mine where either a rabbit, a gopher, or a coyote has burrowed into the ground creating a point of water access which eventually works itself into the close surface workings of the mine. I indicated to Mr. Beirschied that the State would only hold Atlas responsible for the original portal entrances and subsidence that was occurring at the site at this time. Atlas would not be responsible for further subsidence.

I recommend that upon receiving information that the subsidence problem has been mitigated, the Division release Atlas Minerals from any further obligations at this site. I also recommend that we compliment Atlas on going the extra mile, or in this case, the extra acreage in reclaiming the site. Atlas reclaimed approximately 10 to 12 acres of this site that is on pre-law acreage. In other words, Atlas, as a show of good faith, reclaimed a large portion of this site on permitted acreage which was not redisturbed after July 1977 (see Cactus Rat - Surface Map No. R-T-100-E).

I asked the operator to supply me with copies of the certified seed mix, coming from the seed supplier. Mr. Dixon did not have this information available at the time, so he will mail it to me later. According to Mr. Beirschied, the seed mixture will be applied at a rate of 20/lb. acre.

The old Explosives Magazine, located in the eastern portion of the site, has not, and will not be reclaimed. This old powder magazine is a pre-law facility. According to the operator, it presents no real hazard to the public because it is built into hard sandstone formation and therefore, there is no real danger of it collapsing.

jb
cc: Lowell Braxton
Wayne Hedberg
MN4/192-193





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Cactus Prt

Reclamation Draining in Progress